



RAM Alcohol: Free Online Training & Walk-In Certification Exams

The big part of the mission of the Restaurant Association of Maryland Education Foundation (RAMEF) is enhancing the foodservice and hospitality industry's training and education. Cost should never be a barrier to providing the information our employees need to be successful. This core belief is what drives us to offer our RAM Alcohol Awareness Training for FREE online at marylandrestaurants.com.

After completing the online training, you can decide if you want to take the final exam to get your Alcohol Awareness Certification. Per Maryland law, the proctored exam is always taken in person with an approved RAM Alcohol instructor/proctor.

To make the certification exam as accessible as possible, we offer no-appointment-necessary walk-in exams every week, Tuesday through Thursday, 2:00 to 4:00 pm at our office in Columbia. If that does not fit into your schedule, just reach out to us at classes@marylandrestaurants.com or 410-290-6800, and we are happy to set up a time that is convenient for you.

The online training is free, but the certification cost is the same as it has always been at RAMEF: \$65; RAM members receive a \$20 discount. Additionally, check out our ad in this issue of *FoodService Monthly* (on page 24) for a 15 percent off discount code. The free online training provides a way to ensure

that your entire team is trained in responsible alcohol service at a pace that makes sense for your organization, and only those who need the certification must pay for it. Our goal is always to ensure that our training and certifications are accessible and cost effective. RAM Alcohol is fully approved by the Comptroller of Maryland and is valid in every Maryland county.

Many organizations are seeing the value of having an in-house RAM Alcohol instructor/proctor. The free online training provides consistency for all your employees, and then the in-house trainer can just administer the exam. This saves organizations a lot of time and money by providing the flexibility they need to ensure their team is properly trained. Our instructors/proctors pay as little as \$15/student for certifications, and all the training material is provided to our approved instructors/proctors free of charge. Having an in-house RAM Alcohol instructor/proctor makes sense for businesses that want to ensure their whole team is certified. Certifying your entire team can have some insurance benefits.

RAM Alcohol is also available as classroom training. Check out our ad in this issue for upcoming dates or visit marylandrestaurants.com to see a full list of upcoming classes and to register online. If you are interested in becoming a RAM Alcohol instructor/proctor, or you have questions about our program, please email us at classes@marylandrestaurants.com or give us a call at 410-290-6800.

JESSICA WALTER is the executive director of the Restaurant Association of Maryland Education Foundation.

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Michael Birchenall Scholarship Fund

Michael Birchenall was a man of strong conviction and passion. Among his many attributes, Michael is fondly remembered as a man who offered tremendous support, help and encouragement to young people looking to make careers in the foodservice industry. He was always the champion of the bus boy, cook or hostess who was behind the scenes making things run smoothly.

That is why the state restaurant associations in the region are coming together to create the Michael Birchenall Scholarship Fund in his honor. This Fund will help young people who plan to further their hospitality and foodservice education at a post-secondary or culinary school.

Give back to the man who gave so much to our industry. Make a contribution to the Michael Birchenall Scholarship Fund today!

CONTRIBUTION LEVELS

Diamond Level - \$2,500 | Gold Level - \$1,000 | Silver Level - \$500 | Other amounts welcome

CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE AND SENT TO:

Michael Birchenall Scholarship Fund | 6301 Hillside Court | Columbia, MD 21046

Questions can be directed to the Restaurant Association of Maryland (410) 290-6800 or email scholarships@marylandrestaurants.com

